

**HRIC
Executive Committee Meeting
12/13/04**

Draft Notes

1) Progress report on the HRIC Executive Order - Pat McDonald reported that the DET attorneys are working with administration attorney Suzanne Young on language for an Executive Order. The approach is to stay with the language in the expired law, with a few minor technical updates, such as reference to the re-authorization of the Federal WIA which is in the next term of Congress. Subsequent to the meeting, the Administration decided that it would be better to use the Legislative route and to have a bill introduced. Chip had discussed this possibility with Representative Keenan in November and a Bill has been drafted that mirrors the language the Council recommended for the Executive Order. Co-sponsors are being lined up. Of course, it is rare for a bill to emerge exactly as drafted, and this will provide an opportunity to discuss workforce issues with key Committees.

2) Final review of the Workforce Challenge Message - The Workforce Challenge message was discussed, and Commissioner Cate, who attended the Committee meeting the previous week, will be providing some specific comments later in the week. It was agreed that we should incorporate this input into the next draft which will be distributed to the Committee members and then more broadly to the Council.

3) Discussion of Adult Education and Literacy funding options - Pixie Hankinson joined the meeting to discuss the challenge Vermont Adult Learning is facing in providing services to an increasing number of youth between 16 and 20 who have left school and are now seeking basic skills education and high school diplomas at VAL offices. VAL lacks the resources to address this demand, and in the past session of the Legislature there were several proposals to reimburse VAL for the cost of these services from the Education Fund. Although this would be a new use of the Education Fund there are existing precedents that have been in place for many years including the Adult Diploma Program (an assessment based alternative high school diploma program for adults) and the Vermont Academy of Science and Technology (VAST) at VTC that allows talented high school students to attend VTC instead of their Junior and Senior years of high school. The actual cost to the education fund for the proposed VAL program is estimated to be just over \$1 million a year. Since the Education Fund is close to \$800 hundred million a year, the cost is manageable. Val would be paid only 20% of the State per student cost, and then only when the student achieves a grade level increase.

4) Review of plans for January Council meeting - Chip reviewed the basic plan for the January 20 meeting in Room 11 of the Statehouse.

Part 1) Joe Stoltz has agreed to speak (he will also be speaking at the CEDS meeting in Burlington the previous day), and it was agreed to invite Pat McDonald, Richard Cate

and either Mike Quinn, Bob Clarke or Dan Fogel to serve on a Panel that would reflect on Dr. Stoltz's message.

Part 2) Distribute the HRIC's Key Workforce Message and ask the Legislators to consider how their actions in the session can address this challenge, then move the discussion to a brainstorm of organizations to whom the message should be delivered, and to enlisting the members in delivering the message.

Part 3) Introduce Richard Cate, Kay Charron or Tracy Gallo to provide some data on these youth, then Pixie to discuss the youth alternative education proposal.

Part 4) Reports on HRIC Strategic Plan items.

- a) Commission on Higher Education Recommendations.
- b) Report on the High Schools on the Move Initiative.

5) Rutland Manufacturing Academy - Chip reported that he had attended a meeting with key education leaders and Legislators and key business leaders at which the idea of establishing a Manufacturing Academy was discussed. There is strong support, as manufacturing remains a strong element of the Rutland Economy.

Handouts:

New DET career development grant summary

Draft HRIC Annual Report to Legislature (comments requested)